

Y^r Excellency Wm L. May
Sir

Wm. College May 17. 1836

Yours of the 12th inst was duly received. By it I learn that Dr Torrey does not accept of the Botanical department. This I regret, tho he is not the only man who can fill this place, yet he is probably the most distinguished. Prof Hitchcock I have some doubts would be able to engage in this work. I hope Dr Jackson has accepted tho you do not mention the fact. As it regards assistants Mr Hall of Eaton School will be a very efficient man. There is also Dr Prim of Schenectady would do well. I have no doubt have that you are already supplied with names.

Your Excellency wishes me to present to you my views in relation to the survey of H. I have however but few things to be added in addition to those already in the Report of Mr Secretary. In regard to Agriculture I important things are to be effected. The first is to instruct the farmer how to manage & till his land so as not to exhaust it. The second is to put him on the right course of improving his worn out soil. If these two objects can be effected it will do much towards stopping the current of emigration. It will not be necessary to enter on a statement of the means to be employed to effect these 3 objects. It requires in the first place a knowledge of the soil, its constituents &c & also a chemical knowledge of the cultivated plants. — — — It is necessary that something practical should be brought out early in this survey & I am confident there will be. — — It is a great work I hope the

administration of your Excellency will in strength & honor from
this effort to promote Science & the Arts - I hope you will be able
to call us together as early as next week - as the season for out
door work will soon pass away -


Believe me

Yr Excellency

Most Obedient

E. Emmons

Wm L. May Jr. Gov. State of N.Y.


Geological
E. Emmons's Letter
Geologist.